

Message Text

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FM AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1541

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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TAGS: PFOR, PROP, XF, UR, US

SUBJ: LENINGRAD PROPAGANDIST COMMENTS ON MIDDLE EAST

REF: MOSCOW 12684

BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD

1. LENINGRAD ZNANIYE (KNOWLEDGE) SOCIETY PROPAGANDIST COMMENTED ON MIDDLE EAST SITUATION IN SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, REVIEW OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS. SPEAKER WAS GEORGIY MIKHAILOVICH GUBKO AND FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY OF HIS GENERALLY NEGATIVE REMARKS ON SINAI ACCORD.

2. THE AGREEMENT SIGNED IN GENEVA BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL CREATES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NEW NUANCES IN REGION OF MIDDLE EAST. WORLD PRESS HAS MADE MUCH OF

FACT

THAT U.S. AND SOVIET UNION, CO-CHAIRMEN OF MEPC, WERE NOT PRESENT FOR SIGNING. MOREOVER, THE SIGNING WAS ONLY A TEN-MINUTE CEREMONY AND THEY DIDN'T EVEN HAVE CHAMPAGNE.

3. WHAT CAN ONE SAY ABOUT THIS AGREEMENT? FIRST, IT WAS REACHED THROUGH KISSINGER'S EFFORTS AND THUS REPRESENTS ONLY ONE POLITICAL LINE.

SECONDLY, IT HAS AROUSED THE OPPOSITION OF OTHER ARAB STATES. THE SOVIET UNION IS NOT IN PRINCIPLE OPPOSED TO PARTIAL APPROACHES TO PROBLEMS OF MIDDLE EAST, BUT DOES OPPOSE THEM WHEN THEY DO NOT SERVE GOAL OF FULL POLITICAL REGULARIZATION OF AREA. EVEN THE U.S. NEWSPAPER "WASHINGTON POST," A PAPER ALWAYS SYMPATHETIC TO ISRAEL, POINTED OUT THAT THE AGREEMENT EXCLUDES THE OTHER ARAB STATES. AND FACT THAT U.S. IS DIRECTING ITS MILITARY (SIC) INTO AREA CREATES NEW ELEMENT IN MIDDLE EAST SITUATION. U.S. SHOULD LOOK TO VIETNAM AS EXAMPLE--THAT ALSO STARTED WITH JUST A FEW ADVISORS.

4. ISRAEL IS STILL MAIN WEAPON IN U.S. POLICY IN MIDDLE EAST. ONE CANNOT UNDERSTAND EVENTS THERE WITHOUT LOOKING AT AMERICAN IMPERIALISM'S

SUPPORT OF ISRAEL. ISRAEL WELL UNDERSTANDS U.S. INTERESTS IN THE AREA AND KNOWS U.S. WILL PAY--UP TO \$3 BILLION A YEAR PLUS OIL--TO MAINTAIN THESE INTERESTS. AT SAME TIME, U.S. HAS CHANGED ITS APPROACH TO ARAB COUNTRIES TO ONE OF WIDER CONTACTS.

5. HOW DOES ONE EXPLAIN SADAT'S ACTIONS? MOSTLY HE HOPES THAT IT WILL BE ADVANTAGEOUS FOR HIS PERSONAL POSITION TO APPEAR AS SUCCESSFUL LEADER WHO OBTAINED RETURN OF EGYPTIAN TERRITORY, COMPENSATING FOR PROBLEMS OF EGYPT'S DIFFICULT ECONOMIC SITUATION. SADAT HAS EVEN BLAMED SOVIET UNION FOR THESE PROBLEMS, AS IF IT WERE AT ALL TO BLAME.

AS KNOWN, BREZHNEV WAS EARLIER SCHEDULED TO VISIT EGYPT AND THE THERE WAS ANNOUNCEMENT THAT VISIT WAS POSTPONED. NOW THERE IS ONLY SILENCE ABOUT SUCH A VISIT.

NEUBERT

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